

## **Minutes for the 10/6/09 meeting of the Newington Human Rights Commission:**

Present: Val Ginn, Michael Munroe, Christine Andrews, Ken Freidenberg, Monica Golec  
Tim Manke, Phyllis DiCara

Absent: Scott McBride

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

The minutes from the 9/03/09 meeting were approved and seconded.

The first order of business was **Waterfall Festival Feedback.**

Michael Munroe and Christine Andrews stated that the HRC booth at the Waterfall Festival was a success. The HRC committee came up with the following suggestions for next year:

- Contact Newington High School to see if they would be able to supply some volunteers to work at the HRC booth.
- There is no need for music in the HRC booth.
- Christine has a list of needed supplies for next year. Ken will attempt obtain these materials from central supply.
- Have a donation jar in the booth so people can contribute monetarily to the programs in the Human Services Department.
- Possibly have a person in a costume handing out food drive informational flyers.
- The HRC could use blank plywood signs from the Boy Scouts to post HRC material.
- Christine is compiling a checklist of things to do for next years Festival in order to streamline the process. In addition, Christine has photos from the Waterfall Festival that she will be sending to Ken and Val.

The next order of business was **Newington's Got Talent Fundraiser for Human Services.**

1) It was decided that the money raised from this event will go to the Special Needs Fund of the Newington Human Services Department. Ken explained that the Special Needs Fund is made up of private donations and is not part of the department's budget.

2) Having consulted with Newington school officials, it was decided that the last week of February would be the optimum time to have the event. The HRC identified their first choice to be Friday February 26, 2010, the second choice to be Saturday February 27, 2010, and a snow date of Saturday March 6, 2010. The show will start at 7:00 pm. The HRC came up with an auditions date of Saturday January 30, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

3) Possible venues for the show were identified as Newington High School, Town Council Chamber Auditorium, or the Newington Theatre building. It was agreed that the High School would probably have the best set up for the show. Val said that she would contact the high school to see about it's availability for the show.

4) The HRC agreed to limit the show to Newington residents only based on the honor system. No pet acts allowed. The show will be open to all ages. It was suggested to limit the acts to 5 minutes. A 5 dollar admission fee and 5 dollar audition fee was suggested as the primary way to raise money. People who paid the audition fee would then not be charged the admission fee for the show. Cash prizes amounts were suggested as first place \$100, second place \$75, and third place \$50. Trophies and participants medals could also be awarded. It was suggested that another local group could be in charge of selling refreshments in the venue's hallway and then have that group split the money with the HRC.

5) It was agreed that advertising for the show would be placed in the local papers at the end of December and the beginning of January. Advertising in the schools newsletters will have to be submitted at least two months before the actual event. Flyers will also be posted at the Newington Library. NCTV will also be contacted as a source of advertising and involvement. The HRC discussed advertising at the large sign in front of CVS in Newington. Val said that she would investigate this.

6) The HRC agreed that a subcommittee be formed to coordinate the activities for this function. Val and Christine volunteered to be the HRC's representatives on this subcommittee. Other HRC members are welcome to become involved also. It was agreed that a participation in the planning of this event be as inclusive as possible (youth council, senior center, parents committees, religious groups, police dept. etc.). Val volunteered to reach out to see which groups would be interested in joining the subcommittee. Christine and Val agreed to meet on 10/11/09 to devise an agenda and project plan. The first subcommittee meeting will be held on 10/20/09 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. Ken stated that since a majority of HRC members will be in attendance that it will officially have to be called a HRC meeting.

The next order of business was the **Human Services Report**.

Ken reported that participation in all the Human Services Programs was increasing. A special concern is how people will be able to cope with upcoming fuel assistance needs.

It was agreed that the next official HRC meeting will take place on Tuesday October 20th at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Michael Munroe - Secretary